

PUFFS

Audition Package

Hiiii! If you are reading this, then you are seriously considering involving yourself (in some capacity) in the upcoming production of *PUFFS*. Thank you for making it this far!

Over the following pages of this audition package, you will find everything you need to know to prepare for your audition on the 10th of April – it is all very exciting I know!

Before you start diving into the selected audition scenes towards the end of this package, please make sure you read through **ALL** the information surrounding how auditions will take place on the day – that is on the next page. It may also be in your interest to check out the character list for this show (particularly if you are unfamiliar with the *PUFFS* alumni) as this will give you a better idea of *who* to audition for – remember research is an actor’s greatest tool!

Please also note that rehearsals will be twice a week (to begin with) – one weeknight rehearsal (Monday night) and one larger rehearsal (Saturday). Performance dates are July 1st – 17th. By the way, if you do receive a role in this production (nice work!) you’ll need to become a Z-Pac financial member. (BTW) Z-Pac has shifted its membership process to being completely digital, through their new ‘Join It’ membership service – more on that another time.

Finally, you will need to complete an audition form which you will need to hand in a completed version of on the day. So, feel free to print out the form at the end, and complete it in advance of your audition. Remember if you forget to bring your form in... do not stress! There will be forms available on the day – you just might have to fight with others over pens.

So, with that all out of the way, all I can say is “thank you for showing interest in *PUFFS* and I can’t wait to meet you!”

~ **Tim (The Director)**

Please note that due to COVID restrictions, we will be undertaking efforts to effectively socially distance where possible and employ preventative health practises throughout the day. We aim to keep in line with current health requirements and may enforce practises such as: mandatory hand sanitising; 1.5 metre distance between auditionees; cleaning seats between use etc. Please bear with Z-PAC and any inconveniences you experience as we navigate this issue

***PUFFS* - Audition Info**

Show:	<i>PUFFS</i> - written by Matt Cox
Audition Date:	10 th April
Time of Audition:	10:00am onwards (doors open at 9:30am)
Location of Audition:	Z-PAC Theatre - 15 Zephyr Street, Hervey Bay
Type of Audition:	Individual auditions w/ call-backs on the day (please stick around until we let you go)
Audition Panel (on day):	Theresa Saunders (Z-PAC Artistic Director) Tim Holstein (Director) Tiffany Youngs (Assistant Director) Katane Draheim (Stage Manager) *Additional Panellists may be present on day*
Tasks within Audition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Present Scenes monologues- Responding to direction activity- Attempting a light British accent- Simple Q and A with panel
Show requirements:	5M & 5F, 1 either – with some flexibility Age range is 13 – 19; flexible playable age

About *PUFFS*

Notes about the show, from Director Tim Holstein

PUFFS has got to be my favourite guilty pleasure production. It is what I think about when I have a bad day and need a good laugh. You see I have been wanting to become a wizard since I was but a wee potter-head, and since I'm now too old, I'm going to give the opportunity to a new era of witches and wizards. Teenagers, your letter could be arriving soon!

This play features a series of scenes following the members of the *PUFFS* house, all through their 7 years of schooling. All the scenes are comedic and emotive. Explorative and extra. Everyone has fun but are real people too – something I will be looking for in people's auditions.

Scenes are shifting constantly and your ability to switch between multiple characters may be tested. You will need to be a strong confident actor who can handle a fast pace. Bonus points if you can laugh at yourself, as this show can get silly – and it prides itself on the fact. Bear in mind though, acting prowess or experience alone will not get you a role if there is no one to balance against you – think about this when auditioning on the day.

Finally, don't forget to research the play, and most importantly: be brave, be bold and commit.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I cannot make it to the audition at the proposed date or time, can I still audition?

Of course! But please, please, please communicate your inability to attend WELL in advance. This is so we can arrange to see you come at a different time on the audition day, or perhaps on another evening if there are several people who cannot make it. We can also be flexible with a shorter or earlier audition/ call-back if you need to be somewhere else on the day.

Do I need to bring anything on the day of the auditions?

Please have a water bottle and possibly your own food/ a snack. You should wear comfortable clothing whilst still being presentable (nice drama blacks always work best). You might also consider bringing your own *pencil/ pen just in case. Finally, bring some enthusiasm and a willingness to try something new!

**With COVID restrictions in place, it is recommended you bring your own writing implement for signing in purposes, and if you need to fill out a form on the day.*

Do I need to prepare a monologue or know the audition scenes ‘off by heart’?

No, you will not need to prepare a monologue for this audition. Also, although I recommend some familiarity with the attached script segments, there is no need to have these scenes learnt ‘off by heart’. What I am trying to see in the audition is whether you fit the role requirements, if you are easily directable, and most importantly how well you can balance with other actors.

If my age doesn’t fit the ‘recommended age’ for a role I want, should I audition anyway?

Yes – absolutely! You should always try for the roles you want, because you may just be considered for something even better. The age recommendations are merely guidelines for this production. If on the day you bring something that the panel haven’t seen; you are committed to the role; and you also match with other performers, there is no reason why I wouldn’t consider you for a specific role... but try not to waste the panel’s time if you really aren’t a great fit overall. Bring the best *you*, you can.

What things can I do to help prepare for my audition? What do you want to see?

I want to see the best, realest version of you that you have to offer. *PUFFS* is a play about comradery, passion, and conflicting personalities. This play is both emotionally sensitive yet explosively shows this contrast through a hyper-realistic style. Come into your audition familiar with the scenes/ how they flow etc. I would also like to see an attempt at a British accent – just a nice light one. Think Mary Poppins... or hey perhaps the Harry Potter films 😊.

Character List

- **MEGAN JONES**; daughter of the infamous Xavia Jones who thinks she should be in the Snakes house.
- **SUSIE BONES**; a Puff who lives in fear of death, due to the fact that her entire family died... and: HARRY/ COLIN/ HERMEOONE #2/ RIC GRYFF/ MYRTLE
- **SALLY PERKS**; She goes to school here... and HERMEOONE/ BLONDO MALFOY/ ROWENA/ RITA SCOOTER/ BIPPY
- **HANNAH**; a shy Puff who gets made fun of by the other houses... and: FIRST HEADMASTER/ PROF McG/ PROF SPROUTTY/ XAVIA JONES/ PROF LANNY/ RUNES TEACH/ MS. BABBLE
- **LEANNE**; a Puff who grew up as an only child and wants to be friends with everybody... and: GINNY/ HELGA/ FRENCHY
- **WAYNE HOPKINS**; a nerdy wizard boy from New Mexico.
- **OLIVER RIVERS**; a mathematician wizard from New Jersey.
- **CEDRIC**; the lead Puff at the magic school... and **MR. VOLDY**; an evil and dark lord who wants to take over the school and kill Harry.
- **ERNIE MAC**; a very confident and self-obsessed Puff and: A VERY TALL MAN/ SEAMUS/ A CERTAIN POTIONS TEACHER/ PROF. TURBAN/ GHOST HISTORY TEACH/ PROF LOCKY/ MR NICK/ SAL/ SECOND HEADMASTER/ REAL MR MOODY
- **J. FINCH FLETCHLEY**; a flamboyant and happy Puff and: UNCLE DAVE/ GOYLE/ A FAT FRIAR/ CLUMSY LONGBOTTOM/ HERMEOONE #3/ VIKTOR/ MR BAGMAN/ ZACH SMITH
- **NARRATOR**; the one with all the books – either gender
- **DEATH BUDDIES**; played by everyone... they're bad and they know it.



Z-PAC Theatre Audition

SHOW: _____

Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Please note: You must be a Financial Member of Z-PAC Theatre to be involved in a production.

1. Will you accept any role in this production? Yes No

If not, please list which roles you will accept:

2. Please list all relevant theatre experience (you may attach a résumé if you wish):

3. Would you be interested in working backstage if you are not cast? Yes No

If yes, what would you like to do? (Please circle all that apply)

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Props | Costumes | Lights | Assistant Stage Manager |
| Sound | Publicity | Student Producer | Set Make-up |

4. Please list all one-time conflicts below between now and the show (etgwork commitments, vacations etc)

5. Please mark all repeating conflicts on the schedule below and give the times they occur. (i.e. dance every Thursday from 6:00-9:00).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

6. Please tell us why you have chosen to audition for this show and why you would like to be a part of this production.

7. Would you be willing to attend day time or weekend rehearsals?

8. Do you have any interesting or useful talents you'd like to share?

9. Anything else?

Character Monologues

Narrator (accent required)

Heroes. Made. Not born. Except, sometimes...they are born. On a gloomy night, in a far away, magical land called: England.

Ah! A giant! Aw, a baby. His parents: dead. But he lives. He is the boy who lives. He has a scar. On his forehead. Shaped like...you know. You get it? You are familiar with this boy? Well. Forget about him. This story is not about him.

Ah! Another orphan. His parents: also dead. Killed in a freak chocolate frog accident. Please, don't ask. This boy is whisked away to live with his uncle in the even more magical land of Cattlepoke Springs, New Mexico.

Tonight! We will be taking an incredibly in-depth look at those seven years. Over the next five hours split into two parts- What?! 110-ish minutes? Oh.

Tonight! We will be taking...a look at those seven years. Seven years that were, in one word, eventful. It begins as these stories tend to begin...WITH A SORTING!

Wayne (no accent)

Question. Hypothetical. What if I don't have enough of a personality for the magic talking hat to sort me? Like... how much authority does this hat really have? Never mind...This place is crazy huh? I never thought I'd go to school in a castle. Pretty cool. I've never really liked school. People were mean. To me. I'm talking too much.

You probably have all your own nervous thoughts going on...Can I tell you something? I think I might be...special? I watch a lot of movies and read lots of books, and it's like: a normal boy finds out he actually has amazing abilities and is swept away to a new, magical world? Does that sound familiar? Because that is now my ACTUAL life. And THAT kid, through some incredible circumstances always becomes like the most important person. Like in the whole world. A sort of...Chosen One.

AHH! Magic is real, and this orphan boy wizard is ready for seven years of amazing adventures!

Oliver (no accent)

No, I'm from New Jersey. My family just moved to England back in May, so they'd be closer to me when I started at the Mathematical Institute at Oxford this semester. Oh, I know I'm eleven. I've sort of been called a "math savant." But that's not important now. Now, I'm just a wizard...a beginner level wizard. You don't think ending up here means we're already bad at wizard-ing right? I'm not use to being bad at school.

Megan (no accent)

How about I finish the story for him now? Helga was so stupid and boring, she couldn't come up with anything, so they just gave her all the dumb kids. The Puffs. The end. I never wanted to be a Puff. Every member of my family? Puffs. We're like THE Puff family. But I've always known that I was different. There's nothing even special about Puffs. Loyalty? Being really nice? A bunch of lame, awful failures doomed to be stupid walking personality-less nobodies that no will ever care about ever? Ugh. My mom was a Puff. But she was different. She became something bigger. She made the name Jones finally mean something other than a bunch of...Puffs. I thought...I knew...I would be different too. But...after all my hard work to make myself not a Puff, what do you know? The hat puts me with the Puffs. I did everything, I mean, I even changed my accent so I wouldn't sound like my Puff family. Sorry to bring the mood down. Sorry to make things so...Sirius. She's not coming here. Ever. I feel the need to hug. Don't tell anyone.

Cedric (accent required)

And my name...is Cedric. Thanks. Now, gather round. Don't be shy. Welcome to the Puffs! HI! Just a few things to get you acquainted to the school. First, the stairs move. Don't freak out. Just breathe. Second...the Puffs don't exactly have the best reputation here.

People will make jokes about you.

Or throw food at you.

Or they might curse you. In fact, here is a list of curses you can expect to be hit by at some point in the next week.

But, none of that matters. Because really, we're a bunch of nice, fun, happy people. Also, badgers. Badgers are great! That being said, there's something very important we need to discuss. The House Cup. Here you can earn points for doing something right, and you lose them for doing something wrong. The Puffs have come in last place in the House Cup for...ever. But together we are going to change that. This year, we're going to win. Or, we're going to get second. OR, we're going to get third. Third of nothing!

Cedric (as Mr. Voldy)

(into a bullhorn) Is this thing on? Your efforts are futile. I do not want to kill you. Give me Potter. And you shall be rewarded. You have until midnight...night....night...night. That went well I think. Hmm. So, we've got until midnight. Anyone bring any board games? Or snacks. What do you mean I'm still talking into the megaphone? What? Oh! Bring me Harry...Harry. Harry... Okay. The megaphone is now definitely off. You ever feel like a piece of yourself is missing? I feel like that. Like six or so pieces from right in here are just gone. I can't tell if I'm depressed or my lunch hasn't settled or--- ohhhh. I just put something together. What? The megaphone is still on? Really? Oh my, I am just having a day, aren't I? YAH! Harry!

Hannah (as First Headmaster)

Students! Gather round. Yes. Yes. I just want to reaffirm to you all: even in the face of great danger, the doors of this school will always remain open. Never mind. A redhead's been kidnapped. School's cancelled forever. Go home. Never mind. The monster is dead. Let's hear a big round of applause for the boy who fought it alone...MR. POTTER! Yes. Yes. Now, you all know I don't pick favourites. But, Harry-he's my favourite. Now, please, I would like to take a moment of silence for my pet bird who tragically died. Never mind. He's alive again. Exams are cancelled. See you next year.

Hannah (as Professor McG):

Transfiguration: the art of – oh, puffs. Yes, hello. Um. We're going to turn things into other things. Wooow! Go crazy! Mr. Rivers, oh dear, oh dear. Your wand technique is all wrong. Here, you get to use the training wand. Oooooo! Eh hem. Five points from the puffs.

J. Finch (as Zach Smith)

Alright, you trout-suckers. Zach Smith here. HEY! SHUT UP! You hobgoblins wanna play sports? AKA get flipping laid? Cause that's the only reason to play... (What follows here can be anything, literally anything. Any sort of crazy story. A description of a movie plot that Zach experienced. An existential pondering. Just some wizard jokes. Every night will be a new improvised story. Aim for two minutes... and PLAY) ANYWAY, LET'S START THESE TRYOUTS.

Ernie Mac (as A Certain Potions Teacher)

Sit. Everyone. Now. You are here to learn the art of potion mak---Ohhhh. Puffs. Can anyone tell me...What. Is. A. Potion? (It's what you put on your skin to make it feel soft.) No. That's lotion. (It's the place all the fishes live!) Wrong. That's the ocean. (It's magical liquid.) You are the most dunderheaded student I have ever seen sit in my class. If you manage to succeed in my course this year, I will eat a shoe. Ten points from the Puffs...Class dismissed.

Ernie Mac (as Second Headmaster)

Attention, students! Same headmaster, here. This year we will be hosting two other wizard schools. One with French People, and the Drago Strang Institute. They are all very intimidating, and they break dance. They are here to compete alongside one of you in a very dangerous Wizard Tournament. Anyone who wishes to participate, put your name in this cup. We'll draw names on Halloween. It's Halloween! Let's find out who our competitors will be. Ow! Hot! Fire!...Mr. Diggory. Ow-hot. Fire...again...Mr. Potter? MR. POTTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! HARRY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (calm) Did you put your name in that little ol' cup over there? Did you? I'm the definition of calm right now.

Susie (as Harry)

I don't have a date. I want to ask Cho. But I'm so embarrassed. Hey! Remember in Year Two when that teacher removed all my bones? My arm was like this. Remember? Now! I have new bones! I HAVE NEW BONES! THEY GREW THEM. Boy, I've had a rough couple of years huh? All those evil people and monsters. And last year, I didn't have a permission slip to go into town. That was a real bummer for me and my life. But now I have a permission slip. I got it from...someone (winks). Don't need one for any other crazy things that happen here though. Oh well. Bye Wayne! Cedric! I have a permission slip. Look at my new bones!

Susie (as Myrtle)

Waaaaahhh! Waaaaahhh! Stop that dreadful...oh. Hello. Hellllloo. Hehehe, you know who I am? Lets talk about us. Here. Alone. Myrtle is lonely, Cedric. Anything for you Cedric. You're so cool. Think of me every time you see a toilet. Waaaaahhhhhhhhh!

Sally (as Bippy, the house elf)

Hello, Mister Wayne Hopkinses! Ms. Megan Joneses! It's me! Bippy! Your little house elf friend. (begins to sing; make a fun diddy) I am Bippy, and I am your best friend! We'll be together 'til the very end! Bippy! Bippy! We all say: yippeeee! Did I mention I'm your best friend?! (spoken) Verse two of twenty (sung) I am Bippy, and I am your best friend! We'll be together 'til the very end! We're always going on adventures. You're both wizards and Bippy's indentured. (spoken) Magic exit!

Leanne (as Leanne)

No! I don't want to leave. Why is everyone always so down on us? I won't stand for it anymore! And I won't sit for it either. And I also won't stand on one leg because I can't. Watch.

Anyways. Look at your hand! You have a wand! Unless you look at your other hand. Look at yourselves!

Hannah. You used to be so awkward. And you still are, but we don't mind anymore!

Who's that? It's Ernie Mac. And he is basically the best.

And Sally. Remember that time you did that thing? It was amazing!

Susie! We all thought you'd be dead by now. But look at you, standing there, alive. Wayne. You give the best hugs.

Megan! You give better hugs than you think you do.

And J. Finch. He's imaginary, AND HE CAN DO MAGIC! We all can. We're wizards. I'm a Puff and I'm staying, because if we don't fight now we may never find out how that hat talks!